



Cambridge

Health & Rehabilitation Center

February 15, 2023

Re: S.B. No 989 An act concerning Nursing Homes Direct Care Minimum Staffing

Dear Human Services and Aging Committee Members:

I am writing this testimony in reference to the proposed unfunded 4.1 direct hours per patient day bill that is before the committee (S.B. No 989). I am not in support of this proposal as it is unfunded and the labor resources do not exist to meet the staffing mandate.

For the past five years, I have been the licensed nursing home administrator at Cambridge Health & Rehabilitation Center. Cambridge is located in Fairfield, CT and is 160 beds. Mandating a 4.1 direct care minimum would cripple an already struggling labor issue within our nursing homes. Staffing is a daily struggle. I utilize three staffing agencies and offer my staff bonuses to pick up shifts. Managing the labor issue is one of the biggest time consuming tasks - between staff leaving the industry, recruiting, holding job fairs, screening/interviewing applicants and on-boarding. We have provided wage increases every six months and a fully company paid retirement plan.

I am in support of additional staff and resources to care for our resident however; the plan needs to be funded. We do not have the labor resources or funding to meet this direct care minimum staffing mandate. Thank you for the opportunity to present my views and I am asking you not to support S. B. No 989 Minimum Staffing.

Sincerely,



Anna Durkovic

Administrator